

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

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TAGS:PORC, CSCE

SUBJECT:PRESS SUMMARY, OCTOBER 4-5
BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE.

1. COMPARED TO START OF PREPARATORY MEETING, PRESS COVER-
AGE OF BELGRADE II HAS THUS FAR BEEN ONLY MODERATE AND TO
SOME EXTENT OVERSHADOWED BY MIDDLE EAST AND SALT DEVELOP-
MENTS. FOLLOWING IS RUNDOWN OF MAJOR ARTICLES AND
EDITORIALS.

2. WASHINGTON POST, OCTOBER 4, P. 16, CARRIED ARTICLE BY
MICHAEL GETLER ENTITLED QTE FEARS OF RIGHTS CONFRONTATION
AT BELGRADE FADE. UNQTE. ARTICLE QUOTES WESTERN DELEGATES
TO THE EFFECT THAT THINGS ARE MORE RELAXED AND THERE IS
LESS TENSION IN BELGRADE THAN IN SUMMER AND QUOTES QTE TOP
AMERICAN DELEGATE UNQTE WHO STATED QTE THERE WILL BE NO
CONFRONTATION AT THE CONFERENCE. UNQTE. GENERAL ASSESS-
MENT IS OF A QTE GENTLEMANLY AFFAIR AIMED AT PRESERVING
WHATEVER IS LEFT OF DETENTE. UNQTE. ARTICLE ATTRIBUTES
THIS DEVELOPMENT TO TONING DOWN OF ADMINISTRATION'S HUMAN
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RIGHTS CAMPAIGN AND DESIRE TO AVOID JEOPARDIZING NEW
PROGRESS IN ARMS TALKS.

3. WP, OCT 5, P. 9, CARRIED PHOTO OF AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG
SHAKING HANDS WITH MILORAD PESIC. MICHAEL GETLER ARTICLE,

HEADLINED QTE CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE OPENS WITH LIGHT

EAST-WEST SPARRING, UNQTE REPORTS THAT INITIAL SPEECHES SET A TOUGH, YET RESTRAINED, TONE TO THE DEBATE. ARTICLE CITES DUTCH SPEECH, WHICH CRITICIZED UNNAMED COUNTRIES, AS AN EXAMPLE OF EFFORT TO DEBATE WITHOUT CAUSING A MAJOR BLOW-UP. ARTICLE STATES, HOWEVER, THAT ANTICIPATION OF WHAT US AND SOVIET DELEGATES WILL SAY ON THURSDAY IS PROVIDING THE TENSION CONCERNING THE FUTURE COURSE OF THE CONFERENCE. ARTICLE ALSO STATES THAT APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG TO HEAD US DELEGATION PROBABLY CAUSED CONCERN IN MOSCOW, GIVEN AMBASSADOR'S SENSITIVITY TO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE.

4. NYT, OCT. 4, CARRIED OP-ED ARTICLE BY SAKHAROV CALLING UPON WEST TO INSIST ON FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF FINAL ACT AND NOT CAPITULATE TO SOVIET BLACKMAIL. ARTICLE CITES ARREST OF ORLOV GROUP MEMBERS, PSYCHIATRIC REPRESSION, AND RESTRICTIONS ON EMIGRATION AS EXAMPLES OF SOVIET VIOLATIONS. SAKHAROV CONCLUDES WITH PARTICULAR APPEAL TO US CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT CARTER TO DECLARE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WHOLE WORLD TO BE A FUNDAMENTAL MORAL POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES. ON SAME PAGE, TIMES ALSO CARRIED ARTICLE BY TWO SOVIET DISSIDENTS NOW IN THE WEST DESCRIBING FRUSTRATIONS OF SOVIET DISSIDENT MOVEMENT.

5. NYT, OCT. 5, EDITORIAL ENTITLED QTE MEASURING
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HELSINKI AT BELGRADE UNQTE STATED THAT CHALLENGE TO WESTERN DELEGATES AT BELGRADE WILL BE STRIKING THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN PUTTING MOSCOW IN THE DOCK AND LETTING IT OFF THE HOOK. THE EDITORIAL WARNS THAT THERE ARE LIMITS OF BOTH QTE POLICY AND PRUDENCE UNQTE ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE US SHOULD USE BELGRADE TO CONDEMN THE RUSSIANS FOR THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD, BUT STATES THAT QTE LOW-KEY PERSISTENCE UNQTE IS IMPORTANT IN LIMITING INTERNAL REPRESSION.

6. NYT, OCT 5, P. 6, ANDELMAN BYLINE ON OPENING OF CONFERENCE PRESENTS GENERALLY STRAIGHT-FORWARD SYNOPSIS OF EVENTS AND SPEECHES. ARTICLE CITES GOLDBERG-VORONTSOV MEETING AS ONE OF EFFORTS ALREADY UNDERWAY TO AVOID AN OUTRIGHT SPLIT THAT COULD BREAK UP THE CONFERENCE AND ADVERSELY AFFECT OTHER EAST-WEST ISSUES.

7. WALL STREET JOURNAL, OCT. 5, P.1, CARRIED SMALL BLURB THAT CSCE MEETING OPENED WITH SHARP ATTACK ON RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WHILE COMMUNIST DELEGATES EMPHASIZED DANGERS OF ARMS RACE.

8. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, OCT. 4, P. 26, DESCRIBED MEETING AS QTE MARATHON AFFAIR UNQTE DEALING WITH QTE POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE UNQTE ISSUES, PARTICULARLY IN BASKET THREE. ARTICLE STATES, HOWEVER, THAT BOTH EAST AND WEST SEEM QTE LIKELY TO PLAY THE ISSUE COOL UNQTE AT LEAST WHILE NEW MOVES IN STRATEGIC ARMS AND MIDDLE EAST APPEAR TO BE GOING WELL. BUT IT WILL BE HARD TO AVOID CONFLICT.

9. BALTIMORE SUN, OCT. 5, P.2, CARRIED AP STORY EMPHASIZING WARNINGS OF ARMS RACE IN EARLY SPEECHES. ARTICLE EXCERPTED DUTCH, ROMANIAN AND WALDHEIM SPEECHES BUT STATED THAT, DESPITE REFERENCES TO HUMAN RIGHTS, THE OPENING SPEECHES CENTERED ON THE THREAT POSED BY UNCLASSIFIED

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BURGEONING MILITARY BUDGETS IN NATO AND WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES.

10. BALTIMORE SUN, OCT. 4, P.18, CARRIED EDITORIAL ENTITLED QTE HUMAN RIGHTS AND REALPOLITIK UNQTE WHICH STATED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S CREDIBILITY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS BEING TESTED BY EVENTS IN MIDDLE EAST AND BELGRADE. EDITORIAL SPOKE OF QTE RUMBLINGS UNQTE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION MAY DESIST FROM PUTTING VIOLATIONS OF THE FINAL ACT ON THE RECORD IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD WHAT IS LEFT OF DETENTE AND IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE USSR. QTE IF THE SALT II PACT IS PURCHASED AT THE EXPENSE OF ISRAEL'S SECURITY OR BY TRADUCING THE AMERICAN POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THIS WOULD BE A RETURN TO A LESS DEFENSIBLE REALPOLITIK THAN MR. KISSINGER EVER PRACTICED. UNQTE.

11. BALTIMORE SUN, OCT. 4, P. 6, CARRIED ARTICLES ON OPENING OF MEETING, SAKHAROV APPEAL, AND PLEDGE BY 75 JEWS IN USSR TO BEGIN HUNGER STRIKE ON OCTOBER 16 IN PROTEST AGAINST SOVIET CULTURAL AND POLITICAL REPRESSION. ARTICLES QUOTE ONE MOSCOW DISSIDENT AS SAYING THAT IF PRESIDENT CARTER WEAKENS HIS STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS, HE IS SIGNING THE DEATH WARRANT FOR FREEDOM IN THE USSR.

12. LOS ANGELES TIMES, OCT. 4, PUBLISHED EDITORIAL DESCRIBING US POSTURE AT MEETING AS INVOLVING QTE EXTREMELY DELICATE EXERCISE IN DIPLOMACY. UNQTE. EDITORIAL CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT US SHOULD RETREAT ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. THAT WOULD BE AN AFFRONT TO THE COUNTRY'S HERITAGE, AND A DEMORALIZING BLOW TO MILLIONS THE WORLD OVER WHO LIVE UNDER AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES. NEWS ARTICLE ON P. 14 OF SAME UNCLASSIFIED

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ISSUE STATED THAT MUCH OF THE HEAT HAD GONE OUT OF HUMAN

RIGHTS QUESTION SINCE PREPARATORY MEETING, PARTLY
BECAUSE PRESIDENT CARTER AND ADMINISTRATION HAVE ALLOWED
THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN TO RECEDE. QTE YET THE BIG
QUESTION STILL IS WHETHER THE WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS
AND THE UNITED STATES WILL BE ABLE TO STATE THEIR
ASSESSMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS WITHOUT PROVOKING CONFRONTA-
TION WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE EASTERN BLOC. UNQTE.

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